

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 231145Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER VISIT TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0072 (NOTAL)

1. MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN, ACCOMPANIED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER MOROCCAN OFFICIALS, MADE A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA JANUARY 21-22. THE DELEGATION INCLUDED AMBASSADOR MEHDI MRANI ZENTAR (MOROCCO'S NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO MALTA), MOHAMED BELKHAYAT (SECRETARY OF STATE IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER), AND MOUSSA SAADI (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINING AND MERCHANDISE). THE VISIT WAS IN RECIPROCATATION OF A PREVIOUS TRIP MADE TO MOROCCO BY MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF IN NOVEMBER 1974. PRIME MINISTER OSMAN WAS THE GUEST OF PRESIDENT SIR ANTHONY MAMO WHILE IN MALTA.

2. DURING HIS OVERNIGHT STAY, PRIME MINISTER OSMAN HAD TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH MINTOFF, TOURED SEVERAL MALTESE INDUSTRIES (INCLUDING THE MALTA DRYDOCKS), AND SIGNED A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS AND PROTOCOLS

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DESIGNED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND INCREASE TRADE

AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN MALTA AND MOROCCO. THESE AGREEMENTS COVERED: (A) CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION; (B) ECONOMIC COOPERATION; (C) TRADE; (D) THE ELIMINATION OF VISAS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; (E) THE BUILDING OF FISHING TRAWLERS FOR MOROCCO BY THE MALTA DRYDOCKS; (F) THE PROVISION OF MOROCCAN HANDICRAFT EXPERTS TO ASSIST MALTESE HANDICRAFT DEVELOPMENT; AND (G) THE PROVISION OF MALTESE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO ASSIST MOROCCO, AS WELL AS THE TRAINING OF MOROCCAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN MALTA.

3. THE CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT WENT WELL, AND THE PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER OSMAN'S ACTIVITIES WAS FULL AND MOST FAVORABLE. ON HIS DEPARTURE, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC STATEMENT, WHICH WAS OFFICIALLY RELEASED BY MALTA'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION:

"STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
MOROCCO PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE

"BEFORE I LEAVE IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE FEELINGS AND TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR THE KINDNESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND FOR HIS HOSPITALITY AND ALSO OUR GRATITUDE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE, DOM MINTOFF AND TO THE PEOPLE OF MALTA, FOR THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME THEY EXTENDED TO ME.

"I AM SURE THAT MY VISIT WILL GIVE A NEW IMPULSE TO OUR RELATIONS. SINCE THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF TO MOROCCO IN NOVEMBER 1974, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING AND COVERED A LOT OF GROUND AND WE HAVE TRANSFORMED OUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS INTO CONCRETE DEEDS. SO WE HAVE EXCHANGED VISITS OF DELEGATIONS AND WE HAVE BUILT NEW BRIDGES OR RATHER REOPENED ALL THE BRIDGES IN OUR CO-OPERATION. IN THE MORNING I HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS I DID YESTERDAY AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SIGN FOUR CONVENTIONS AND MY SINCERE HOPE IS THAT IT IS A NEW START FOR DYNAMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

4. COMMENT: AS USUAL, THE PRO-MINTOFF PRESS MADE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE OSMAN VISIT IN ORDER TO ENHANCE MINTOFF'S LOCAL IMAGE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN. WHILE THE

RECEPTION OF OSMAN WAS MUCH LESS FLAMBOYANT THAN  
THAT AFFORDED MINTOFF'S FRIEND QADHAFI A YEAR AGO,  
THE VERY FACT THAT THIS VISIT HAS SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN  
PLACE COULD HELP REDUCE THE FEELING HERE THAT  
MINTOFF MAKES ENTIRELY TOO MUCH OF HIS "SPECIAL  
RELATIONSHIP" WITH QADHAFI. WHETHER OR NOT THERE  
ARE MANY TANGIBLE RESULTS FROM THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS  
SIGNED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, AT LEAST MALTA HAS  
REACHED OUT TOWARD ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY FOR A  
CHANGE. SMITH

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